

Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine, Devotes Day to Benevolence.

ITS ANNUAL CUSTOM

CHRISTMAS TREE FILLED WITH GIFTS FOR CHILDREN.

Hundreds of Baskets Containing Substantials Distributed Among the Deserving Poor.

The Mystic Shriners of this city are doing their full share today in the celebration of the greatest of Christian holidays. Almas Temple of Nobles of the Ancient and Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine is holding sway at National Rifles 'Armory, distributing its customary Christmas baskets among many families and delighting the eyes and gladdening the hearts of thousands of little children. This organization of high degree Masons of Washington devotes itself every Christmas day to charity. Almas Temple is the largest single fraternal organization in this city. It has more than a thousand members, and all of these participated in some way in the hard, as well as good, work of making a merry Christ-

the Christmas baskets and their distribution throughout the city. The scene at the temple, when the packing was completed, was a very pretty one. Hundreds of baskets, each containing the material for a large Christmas dinner, were arranged row on row, almost completely filling the entire floor space of the lower half at the armory. In the contar rose the handsome Christian difference in the containing the material for a large of the lower half at the armory. In the contar rose the handsome Christian difference in the families whose names were on the temple's l'st without the facilities for cooking the turkeys, and that fact determined the change. "Less frills and more food," said the potentiate of Almas, and porkers instead of gobblers were slaughtered to make this holiday. In addition to a ten-pound ham, each basket containing the material for a large Christmas dinner, were arranged row out the facilities for cooking the turkeys, and that fact determined the change. "Less frills and more food," said the potentiate of Almas, and porkers instead of gobblers were slaughtered to make this holiday. In In the center rose the handsome Christ-mas tree for children, which is the particu-lar feature of the entertainment this after-

POLICE MAGISTRATES. Reasons for Their Appointment Given by Maj. Sylvester.

"I fully agree with Major Sylvester in his recommendation made in his annual report concerning the Police Court," remarked a prominent member of the bar to & Star reporter. "The Police Court should certainly be abolished and magistrates appointed to perform the duty of trying police cases. There can certainly be no just reason why a place of amusement of this kind should be furnished the hundreds of people, I might say hangers on, who infest this place the twelve months in the year. People who are arrested on trivial charges should not be punished before they are tried, as is the case in many instances. It is an easy matter for a person to get a warrant for another because of prejudice, and as the records of the court will show, many such persons are acquitted after they have spent some time behind the bars. There are many other reasons why these petty cases should be disposed of more promptly.

Major Sylvester, he explained, has called this matter to the attention of the Dis-trict Commissioners a number of times. In his report recently made public the chief of police had this to say: "As time advances and surroundings

change the necessity for improvement in the system is more apparent. Those in-terested have only to investigate for themselves to know the awkwardness which at-tends the situation so far as the police are concerned. Last year members of the force were detained at the Police Court awaiting hearing of cases until after 11 o'clock a.m. in 2,063 instances. Not infrequently there is an arrest made during the after hours of the night, and the member of the force making it is not only required to remain on the street until after 6 o'clock in the morning to finish his tour of duty, but he must repair to the Police Court Without rest, perhaps without breakfast, and there remain until his case is tried. The merchant or professional man may be taken from his business as a witness. A prisoner may be acquitted, but he has been ransported in a van or patrol wagon from the police station to the court after being confined in a cell for several hours, all embarrassing and unbusiness like.

"To remedy this situation it is proposed

that magistrates shall determine cases at the several station houses every morning and evening. These officers should each

neon for the little friends of Almas Temple. The potentate of the temple and several chairmen of subcommittees and other active workers are shown in the illustration.

It was long after midnight when the work of filling and arranging the baskets and the assigning of different nobles to take charge of the work of distribution was completed.

Five O'Clock Distribution.

A few hours for sleep and the Shriners were at it again. At 5 o'clock this morning the delivery wagons began to leave the armory to distribute the baskets carrying Almas' Christmas greetings to the worthy and deserving whose names had been placed on its list. Fifteen hundred baskets were given this year, the largest number since Almas Temple began this form of Christmas having done all that could or should be done in this way, but its members are pleased that they have been able to do more than they did in previous years. The officers and nobles are particularly grateful for the assistance rendered them by many friends, enabling them to extend the good work they have so gladly done. The delivery wagons carrying the Christ-

mas gifts went to each and every part of the District of Columbia. Each wagon was in charge of a member of Almas Temple, who personally superintended the delivery of the baskets. The use of the delivery wagons was donated to the temple, and each noble freely gave his services to the good cause. The men worked like horses and the horses worked like men until the rduous but enjoyable duty was performed. The District was divided into delivery routes, and each noble and his wagon distributed fifty of the Christmas baskets. The work began at 5 and was pressed so briskly that it was completed before 8 o'clock. Each basket held all the materials necessary to be seen and the materials necessary to the seen and the seen and the materials necessary to the seen and the terials necessary to a hearty Christmas dinner for a good-sized family. The traditional Christmas turkey was, however, not a part of Almas' Christmas menu this year. In the gobbler's stead a ten-pound in being able to give it.

The nobility of the temple all took part is nobility of the temple all took part is nobility of the temple and it seems All day yesterday and late into the night nobles of the temple in large numbers were at the armory, much busier than bees. The entire nobility of the temple had been appointed by Potentate Frank K. Raymond as a committee to arrange for the filling of the Christmas baskets and their distribution.

The nobility of the temple all took part in the Christmas charity work, and it seems somewhat invidious to name any particular members. The work of the committee in guests in the capital today. In previous years the nobles in charge of the delivery of the families was however, especially notable. This committee was headed by Thomas B. Walthey committee was hea they found quite a number of the families

have a clerk and keep a docket. Under such arrangements the prisoner would be disposed of promptly, and the witnesses and members of the force avoid delays. The determination of such cases ought not to interfere with the megistrates giving at-

"Major Sylvester has the right idea about the matter so far as the the police and witnesses are concerned," the attorney added, "but he might have said a great deal more on the side of the prisoners.

as the superintendent suggests."

The Lord Mayor's "Crumbs."

yesterday morning. These "crumbs" were of a substantial

kind, consisting of plump ducks and chickens innocent of the carver's knife, joints of

some hair dozen long benches were spread with these "remnants" at one end of the Guildhall, while at the other stood the old, the poor and the hungry, carrying capacious bags and baskets. At a given signal a dozen gentlemen in silk hats and frock coats, the latter half hidden by enormous white aprons, came into the hall. They were the lord mayor and sheriffs' committee, who are intrusted with the distribution of the tickets entitling the possess. bution of the tickets entitling the possess-ors to partake of this charity, and who al-ways personally superintend the proceed-

ways personally superintend the proceedings.

The tables were rapidly divided into twelve sections, and the holders of each committeeman's tickets were called up in batches. Marshaled by the police, they ranged themselves before the tables, and into their bags and baskets placed the generous and well-diversified "lot" of provisions facing them. And thus it was that

tention to civil questions at other than allotted police hours, and the present Po-lice Court could be maintained for the trial of jury cases. Such law as would provide for magistrates hearing this class of cases is recommended, and procedure of the kind would obviate the establishment of a children's court, as all charges against children under sixteen years of age, and females secured at the house of detention, would be tried at that institution, as would be others at the several station houses.

"Major Sylvester has the institution."

He is on the right track, however, and I hope the time will soon come when the people of this city will see a change such

From the London Mail. Dives feasted at the Guildhall on Monday night and Lazarus gathered up the crumbs

beef and mutton scarcely touched, game and pigeon ples, toothsome entrees and sweets, vessels of turtle soup and loaves of bread in profusion. Some half dozen long benches were spread

visions facing them. And thus it was last night saw in London many mayor's banquets on a small scale.



RECEIVING AND SORTING CHRISTMAS MAIL

toes, the whole rounded off with turnips and cabbages.

The Work of Decoration.

This part of the good work finished, fresh relays of nobles conducted the decoration of the hall at the armory for the children's Christmas tree. Long, high heaps of little stockings filled with candies and nuts took the place of the vanished baskets. There were thousands of pairs of these stockings, and they contained more than 3,000 pounds of candy, and many hundreds of pounds of various kinds of nuts. Many ladies par-ticipated in the arrangement of the trees and the filling of the stockings. The work was completed before noon, and soon afterward Almas was ready to receive the calls of its little friends. Noble Will A. Haley observance. The temple lays no claim to and his entire band were on hand to discourse music for the entertainment of the children. The services of the band were donated for the occasion, and the music furnished by this noted organization was one of the finest features of the day. A large number of ladies and gentlemen, including many persons prominent in public life and society, gathered at the armory

> veritable Santa Claus of childhood song and The Reception Begins.

> committee of the most active nobles had charge of this work, and Noble G. Hector Clemes, in Eskimo garb, appeared as the

to witness the giving of the stockings.

At 1 o'clock the temple was ready for its reception, and a stream of young children has been filing in from that hour. As each child passes the long table on which Santa Claus and his willing helpers are standing each one receives a pair of stockings, one filled with candy and the other with nuts, lighted, but it is to be doubted that with all their pleasure the children were as happy in the entertainment as the members of Almas, their ladies and their friends were

vice chairman. Among the many who labored diligently with the clerical force were Potentate Raymond, Recorder George H. Walker, Wallace Streater, Dr. Goslin, C. A. Beatty, F. O. McNell, Thos. Mitchell, S. H. Jacobson, H. O. Bailey, John A. El-linger, Jacobus S. Jones, F. A. Sebring, G.

M. Hunt, G. A. Whitaker, Ed. Wortz, Geo.
X. Spransey, Cliff Long, W. W. Jordan, C.
S. Hyer and Chas, G. Lennon, who is a
member of Acca Temple of Richmond. GAVE LUCK THE GO-BY.

a Fortune. Senator Teller of Colorado will never forget Christmas day, 1880. It was on that Christmas morning he allowed to slip through his hands a chance to make a million dollars without putting up a single

The Real Santa Claus.

what they proposed to do and urged him to take a one-third interest in the property.

"But I haven't the money," protested Mr.

"It makes no dillerence," he was told. "You can give your notes, and before they

come due we'll take from the mine more

"Then we will put up the money to meet the notes, and you need not trouble about

Senator Teller was assured that his friends knew exactly what they had in hand, but be didn't go in. He thought as he had not the money to put into the undertaking he had no right to reap the reward, if there was to be one. He was assured that they wanted him in the deal, but no not waster that they wanted him in the deal, but no not waster that they wanted him to accept

but no persuasion could get him to accept the offer. One month later the Robert E. Lee mine had yielded. \$200,000 of gold and

in a year a total of \$1,500,000 was taken

out. It proved to be one of the richest pockets of gold that has ever been found.

Canada and the U. S. A.

It may be the destiny of Canada to be-

come a part of the United States some time in the future, no one knows; but if

the time should ever come when Canada would be found knocking at the doors of the republic it would be only after Cana-dians had attempted to realize their own ideals and had failed.

From the Woodstock (Canada) Express.

suggested the senator, with

gold than will be necessary to pay them." "But suppose we don't realize our ex-pectations?" suggested the senator, with

Senator Teller Misses Chance to Make

"We marched around on K street near 14th at the Stanton residence, where General Gilmore addressed us, and then proceeded to the Seward residence on Madison place opposite Lafayette Square. As we in full dress uniform came running wildly up, shouting 'Stop the music; the President has been assassinated!'

"I ran ahead to the front of the column and stopped the band. We could not re-alize the full import of the officer's words, but in a few minutes the streets were filled with troops and people, and then ensued a scene of excitement such as few men have witnessed, and a night never to be forgotten by those within the limits of the city at that "But the park is memorable in not only

conspirators, but as the spot where one of the greatest if not the most terrible accidents in the history of this city happened. The event will be recalled by all old Washingtonians if forgotten by the younger gen-

Washington's Most Fearful Accident. dollar. Two of Senator Teller's friends proposed to purchase the Robert E. Lee mine at Leadville. They were able to buy it for \$100,000. On Christmas morning they called around to see Mr. Teller, told him-

OLD ARSENAL GROUNDS **********************************

CHANGES MADE AND CONTEM-PLATED FOR WAR COLLEGE.

It Was There the Assassins of President Lincoln Were Tried

and Executed.

ong the residents of Washington, and scarrely any among our visitors who wander hrough the beautiful grounds of the arienal water park on the Potomac at the foot of 4½ street re-member or realize that the trial of Mrs. Surratt and others charged with conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln was he'd in the old penitentiary building formerly there, and that the conspirators were executed almost upon the spot between the two large main buildings in the center of the grounds now occupied by the flower beds and splashing fountain which separate the main driveway at this point.

This historic park is about to be further changed by the expenditure of several millions of dollars in new buildings and other improvements going with the new army college, but it will ever remain, even if its story be forgotten by most of us, one of the most historic places situated within the

limits of the District.

There are probably very few, if any, residents of the capital still living who actually witnessed the execution, though there are some who were in the park with-out the walls of the penitentiary upon that eventful day. Among these is Officer Rob-ert Burns, a veteran on the local police force, and who is assigned for night duty at police headquarters. Mr. Burns is filled with interesting reminiscences, and in re-marking this morning to a Star man upon the charge in the scene of the execution grounds since the war he said:

The Old Prison and Its Inmates.

"There is great difference between the fine, well-kept park of today and the same spot during the war. Half of it, on the James Creek canal side, was a marsh, and there were none of the beautiful large trees under the shade of which our residents now wander in the summer time by the seawall.

"Four-and-a-half street stopped at P street, which lines the grounds on the north now, but it is my recollection that the high brick wall which shuts them in was erected after the war. There was a fence of some kind here, while farther on in the grounds arose high and forbiddingly the dark walls of the penitentiary, inclosing this gloomy building, made famous by the great trial of the Lincoln conspriators held therein.

"Th's wall was afterward torn down, together with the center wing of the prison building. The two large residences facing each other, and which are now used as quarters for the commandant and other higher officers stationed at the post, are the cast and west wings of the penitentiary building remodeled. These two wings of the old prison make today attractive, old-fash-ioned residences from the exterior, and not one person in a million would suspect that they were formerly a prison, and that their windows overlooked the most historic execution ever held in this country.

"Yes, I was in the grounds on the day of the execution because I was at that time

in the employ of the government and sta-tioned there. I was a machinist and one of a small army of men at work in the shops where arms and ammunition were manufactured, and abandoned guns on the battlefield made over and returned to the

"I recall that the public were rigidly excluded and that the number of persons allowed within the walks of the prison were comparatively few on the day of the execution. I did not care to see it, and would not have done so unless I had been ordered in line of duty. I had visited the court room during the trial and had observed the prisoners as they sat at the bar. Other Historic Features of the Park.

"Yes, there was a great deal of talk among the men at the time as to the exact place of the interment of the bodies, and there has always been a difference of opinion where the bodies were buried and as to their subsequent disposal. I well remember that on the day of the execution the utmost secrecy was maintained as to their interment, and this secrecy was afterwards not relaxed. Beyond the laborers who prepared the graves and the few in authority I doubt if any one knew their

disposition. "The body of Mrs. Surratt is said to have been reinterred in Mount Olivet cemetery. There is a monument erected to her memory there. I believe that it is understood that the other bodies were disinterred and buried elsewhere, while other reports have it that they were destroyed in the usual manner by quicklime.

"President Lincoln was assassinated upon a Friday night. The men in the arsenal had planned for a torchlight procession with patriotic transparencies for that night, our intention being to serenade the Presi-dent and Secretary Stanton. There were about 1,700 of us, and we marched up town to the White House with flags flying and music playing. At the White House we were told that the President had gone to the theater, and we were much disappointed.

History Might Have Been Changed. "I have often thought that if our coming had in some manner delayed the President's attendance at Ford's Theater on that fatal night; if his visit had been postponed how history would have been changed, the plans of the conspirators upset, and the life of Mr. Lincoln perhaps preserved.

were marching home down Pennsylvania avenue near the National Theater an officer

being the execution grounds of the Lincoln

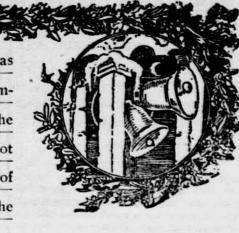
"Ammunition was manufactured in several buildings in the arsenal in large quantities, and an immense quantity of powder

The Palais Royal is closed today-and this announcement was

written yesterday evening. The Palais Royal proprietor and his employes are to enjoy a merry Christmas-tired, but buoyed up with the knowledge of a holiday business simply phenomenal and indicating not only the increased popularity of the store, but the evident certainty of

G street figuring as the coming street. A merry Christmas to the

Palais Royal's growing army of friends and patrons.



Tomorrow's After-Christmas Sale.

Per Cent Discount. (In the Men's Corner.)

Choice of all Imported Smoking Tables marked at various prices from \$1.25 to \$14.98. You deduct one-quarter from the price marked on any you

Choice of all Smokers' Articles—a grand collection—ticketed 25c and up to \$4.98 each. Any Traveling Set—those of leather with tollet needs inside. Prices range from 98c to \$20 the set.

Collar and Cuff Boxes are here at Drinking Fiasks are here from the simplest to the most elaborate; from

Writing Tablets are here of various leathers at 49c to \$10-less 25 per cent discount.

Go to "The Men's Corner" for any of the above articles—and see one-quarter is deducted from the marked

Per Cent Discount. (In Various Departments.)

Choice of the Ladies' and Men's Silk Umbrellas at \$5 to \$20 and Ladies' Rain Coats at \$15.98 to \$25—

at 20 per cent discount.
Go to second floor for Silks and Wool Dress Goods and secure waist and dress patterns at a saving of 20

50 Per Cent Discount. (On Basement Floor.)

Choice of the Bisque Busts ticketed at various prices from \$5 to \$14. See you buy at one-half the marked price. And when on this basement floor don't fail to hunt for and find other equally good bargains.

Per Cent Discount. (On Various Floors.) .

Choice of the famous Rogers A1 Table Silver. One-tenth off the less-than-usual prices. First floor. Any of the highly ornamental Table Lamps you'll find in basement can be yours at one-tenth less than the marked price.

Third floor for the Children's Fur Sets and High-class Cloth and Silk Coats at 10 per cent discount.

Basement floor for Cut Glass at one-tenth less than the price marks Shakers, Salt and Pepper, 25c to 98c. Bottles, Oil and Vinegar, 98c to \$3.98. Bottles, Water, \$1.69 to \$7.98. Pitchers, Water, \$2.25 to \$12.98.

Bowls, Fruit, \$3.98 to \$19.98. Trays, Spoon, \$3.75 to \$6.00. Vases, Flower, \$8.25 to \$15.00. Bowls, Punch, \$33.00 to \$65.00.

Note that less than usual prices are already marked on these Cut

Tables Full at 25c, 49c, 75c and 98c.

For your convenience and ours great tables are to be filled with articles suitable for Christmas presents, at so much for choice. To assure rapid sales greatly reduced prices are quoted in all departments on all floors.

On First Floor.

Note that Ladies' Pocket Books

worth up to \$3.50 are to go on one of the 98c tables.

Note, too, that Silver-plated Pieces that were on the \$1 table are to go

on the 75c table.

Stop at "the 25c table," at G street door, and find articles worth 50c and

Basement Floor.

The tables devoted to Bric-a-brac The tables devoted to Bric-a-brac will be the leading feature, Pieces that were 49c are to go on "the 25c tables." Pieces worth 75c are to be on the 49c table. The 75c table is to contain erstwhile \$1 pieces, while the 98c table will contain Vases, Urns, Jars, Busts and Figures worth up to

Second Floor.

The tables on this floor will contain Dress Goods which will be cut in waist and dress patterns; Dress Trimmings, Laces and Linings, which

Linens, Towels, Bedwear, etc.-all at reduced prices.

to death. Brown was not injured.

cared.

"A monument stands today in the Congressional cemetery in memory of these poor women, their names being inscribed upon the shaft."

Satisfactory.

deal of work is successfully carried on at the proving grounds at Indian Head, Md., said Rear Admiral O'Neill, chief of the bureau of naval ordnance, in a recent communication to the Secretary of the Navy, "the fact should be made known to the department that it is by no means as satisfactory for its purposes as it formerly was. The great increase in the power of guns of recent, years, and their greatly extended range, renders a more isolated location necessary for proving and ranging them. Long distance firing has to be done down the channel, which is very frequently obstructed by vessels, causing much delay and some

mend a change of site, but is convinced that the time is not far distant when the matter will have to be seriously considered, and if a change is made the new site should, if possible, have railroad connection with the naval gun factory at Washington, as too much time is now lost, due to the fact that the proving ground can only be reached by

year as a measure of precaution, as on one occasion a 13-inch projectile fired from Indian Head landed on the property, the land lying nearly in the line of fire when firing at long range."



THE MAIL CARRIER AT WORK.

\$1-on "the 49c table." the table filled with 35c to 50c Handkerchiefs at only 29c for choice will be quickly discovered.

Go to the Art Department and find Celluloid and other Fancy Boxes worth \$1—on the 50c table.

Go to "The Men's Corner" and find Drinking Flasks, Smoking Sets, Silver-inlaid Glass Vases, worth up (1) \$1—on "the 49c table."

On Third Floor. Here are the bright and cozy

Eiderdown Sacques; here, too, are Waists, Skirts, Wrappers, Aprons and Caps, Furs for Ladies and Children, Fascinators, Warm Night Robes and little children's garments of every description. And Corsets— think of best \$5 French Corsets for only \$1.69. They are here.

On Fourth Floor.

Suggestions here include Furniture, the odd pieces that make such acceptable gifts. Rugs, too; Rich Tapestry Portieres and Lace Curtains. Art Pictures in Art Frames at 20 per cent discount—one-fifth off marked prices.

Palais Royal, A. Lisner, G & 11th Sts.

was experimenting with some fireworks he was attempting to make. He placed the powder in some metal pans out in the sun | Senator Kearns' Experience One Christnear one of the cartridge-making buildings. It ignited and the blazing squibs flew into the open windows among the loose powder. Fire and explosion resulted, and twenty-one unfortunate girls and women were burned

"The scene was indescribably horrifying.
I was in a shop some distance from the scene of the disaster, and the screams of the mangled and burned unfortunates was sickening, as was the sight of their torn and mangled bodies. There was the greatest excitement at the post, for apart from the explosion with its awful results the big powder magazines were in immediate dan-ger of catching fire, and had they exploded, as was feared until the troops got the fire under control, the loss of life and destruction of property would have been terrific, owing to the large number of men in the mmediate vicinity who could not have es-

danger. "The bureau is not yet prepared to recom-

Explanation.

"How does it happen you ran so far be "I didn't," said the candidate who had was stored there. The old style paper-end cartridges were made. One day near the close of the war a map named Tom Brown

WAS A FREIGHTER THEN. mas in the Black Hills.

lection of a Christmas morning when as a small boy he was "freighting" in the Black Hills with eyes big with wonder and speculating as to whether he would ever possess | some of the yellow gold which others were digging out of the earth.

"Two days before Christmas," he related a short time ago, referring to this period, "there was a scare in the Black Hills over an epidemic of smallpox, and I was taken sick with what appeared to be that disease. I was working for a big miner named Dove, and he was a man no one cared to cross. He had some Mexican blood in his makeup. had lived a life of adventure, and there was nothing he feared. The board of health had set aside a log house for a hospital and started in to isolate every suspicious case

started in to isolate every suspicious case there. Dove determined that I should not be taken away from his cabin. "'Boy,' he said, 'just stay here. No man dare enter my house without my consent, and no one can take you away."

"I felt perfectly safe after that, and when I heard the board of health, consisting of two doctors and three deputy sheriffs, in front of the cabin I knew that Dove would

ook after them. "Friends," I heard him say, quietly, after they demanded in the name of the law that I should be brought out and taken to the hespital, "I don't want any trouble, but that sick boy is going to stay here, where I can take care of him.'

"I peered over toward the door and there I saw Dove standing with a shotgun ready to be aimed at a moment's notice. He was talking very calmly, and as he proceeded he brought the gun in place for action.

"'Friends,' he repeated, 'you better go along because if any man enters that door I will kill him on the spot.'

"The board of health then went away, All day Christmas I lay there wondering wheth-er they might come back at a moment er they might come back at a moment when Dove was away. Between Christmas and New Year day they did return, and as it happened Dove was not at home. I felt very much averse to being taken away, and determined to initate Dove's action as far as possible. Though weak from illness I got up and shouldered Dove's gun. I told the man that sooner than be taken away in Dove's absence I would kill any one who Dove's absence I would kill any one who came in for me. I think they didn't care to have any trouble with Dove, and they left. It turned out that I had a case of measles, but had I been taken to the pest house I would surely have had smallpox."

For several years Senator Kearns has house I would surely have had smallpox."

For several years Senator Kearns has been making inquiries for "Dove." If he ever locates the big miner, for whom he has a very tender place in his heart, there will be a big time, and if Dove has not in the meantime found a gold mine he will be invited to help himself to all the yellow metal he wants from Senator Kearns' rich find in Utah.

Origin of Christmas Tree. from the Woman's Home Companion.

Most of us know that the Christmas tree comes to us direct from Germany. And we know of the tree worship of the Druids which obtained in England and France, and which obtained in England and France, and which probably had some influence on the later use of the tree in the Christian festival. But we do not all know that a similar festival with the tree as a crowning feature is observed among many heathen nations, and that it comes from sun worship, which is older than history. The revival of the sun after the winter solstice has ever been the subject of rejoicing and of celebration by ceremonies which represent the new light brought back to the world. Our tree, with its small candles, its gilded knick-knacks and toys for the children, is a direct descendant of this old festival in honor of the sun.

of the sun.
Traces of it exist in Iceland, where the "service tree" is found adorned with burn-ing lights during Christmas night. The English yule log is a faint survival of this festival. But it is beyond these that I wish to draw your attention, back further even than the Druid mysteries of the Gallic forests. It is to China, that home of all won-ders and of all history. It has been shown that as long ago as 247 B. C. a tree with a hundred lamps and flowers was placed on the steps of the audience hall. This appears again in the records of Princess Yang, who lived 713-55 A. D., and who caused a hundred-lamp tree eighty feet high to be erected on a mountain. It was lighted during New Year night, and the illumination was seen for hundreds of miles, eclipsing the light of the moon. This candle tree is no longer lighted in China, being replaced by an unusual number of lanterns, which are hung everywhere. A suggestion of the tree, however, still survives in Japan. Abothe New Year two evergreen trees are the New Year two evergreen trees are placed without, on either side of the door. Their tops are tied together with the sacred band of straw, and various objects, dried lobsters and oranges are fastened to their 5 de24-28d branches.

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give the amount of heat needed. We're showing an elegant line of Gas Appliance Exchange.

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low. Only \$2.50. A. O. Hutterly, 632 G st. n.w.

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